

Section

3

The Mongols in China

Get-Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

As a complex culture developed in China, a northern enemy waited to attack.

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- Genghis Khan and his sons built the Mongol Empire, which stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe. (page 424)
- The Mongols conquered China and created a new dynasty that tried to conquer Japan and began trading with the rest of Asia. (page 428)

Locating Places

Mongolia (mahn•GOH•lee•uh)

Gobi (GOH•bee)

Karakorum (KAHR•uh•KOHR•uhm)

Khanbaliq (KAHN•buh•LEEK)

Beijing (BAY•JIHNG)

Meeting People

Genghis Khan

(GEHNG•guhs KAHN)

Kublai Khan (KOO•BLUH KAHN)

Marco Polo

(MAHR•koh POH•loh)

Building Your Vocabulary

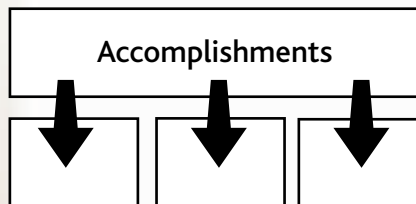
tribe

steppe (STEHP)

terror (TEHR•uhr)

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information Use a diagram like the one below to show the accomplishments of Genghis Khan's reign.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

When & Where?



1200

1206

Genghis Khan unites Mongols

1300

1271

Kublai Khan becomes China's emperor

1400

1368

Yuan (Mongol) dynasty falls

The Mongols

Main Idea Genghis Khan and his sons built the Mongol Empire, which stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe.

Reading Focus Have you ever had the chance to ride a horse? For thousands of years, the horse was the most important form of transportation in the world. Read to learn how one people used their skills as horse riders to build a vast empire.

The Mongols lived in an area north of China called **Mongolia** (mahn•GOH•lee•uh). They were made up of **tribes**, or groups of related families, loosely joined together. The Mongols raised cattle, goats, sheep, and

horses. They followed their herds as the animals grazed Mongolia's great **steppes** (STEHPHS). Steppes are wide rolling grassy plains that stretch from the Black Sea to northern China.

From an early period in their history, the Mongols were known for two things. One was their ability to ride horses well. Mongols practically lived on horseback, learning to ride at age four or five.

The other skill for which the Mongols were known was the ability to wage war. They could fire arrows at enemies from a distance while charging at them. Then they would attack with spears and swords.

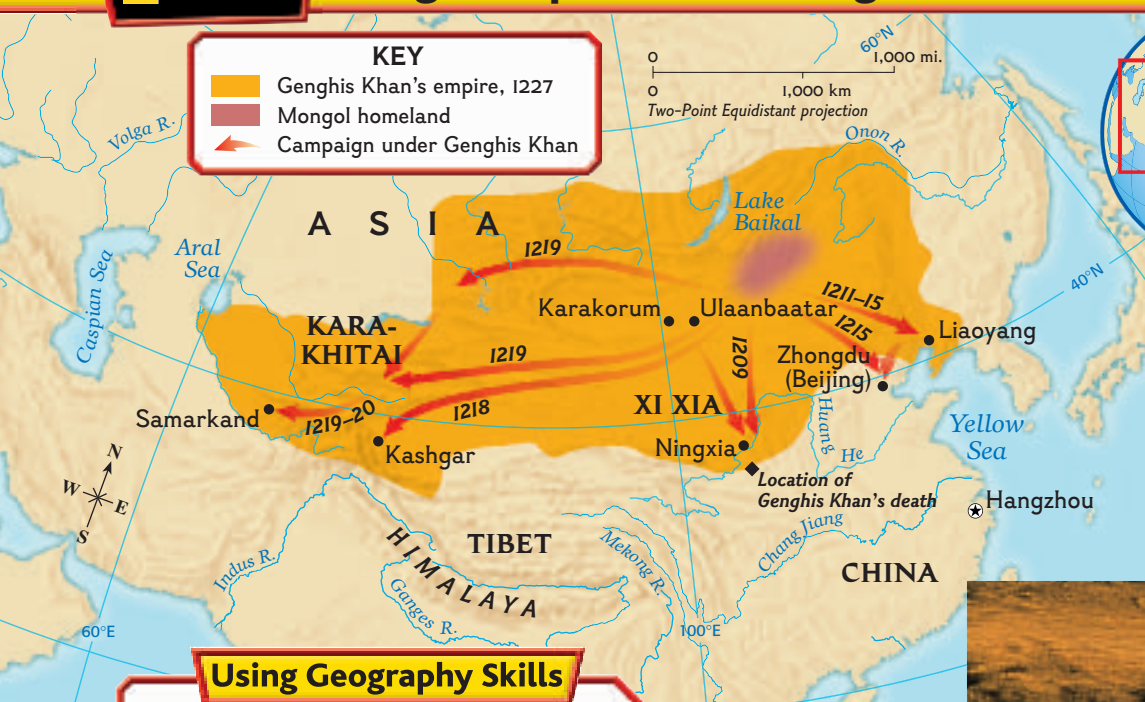
(t)National Museum of Taipei, (b) J. Bertrand/Photo Researchers



Mongol Empire Under Genghis Khan 1227

KEY

- Genghis Khan's empire, 1227
- Mongol homeland
- Campaign under Genghis Khan



Mongol warrior ▼

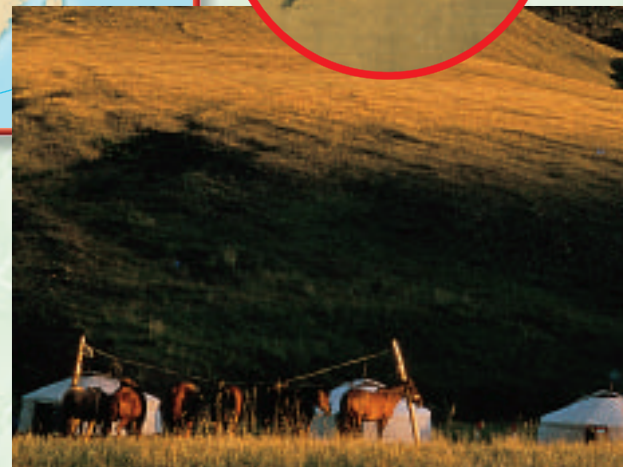


Using Geography Skills

Under the reign of Genghis Khan, the Mongols conquered kingdoms across central Asia.

1. In what direction from Mongolia did Genghis Khan first strike? In what year?
2. What physical features may have prevented Genghis Khan from capturing more territory to the south?

Mongolian nomads today ►



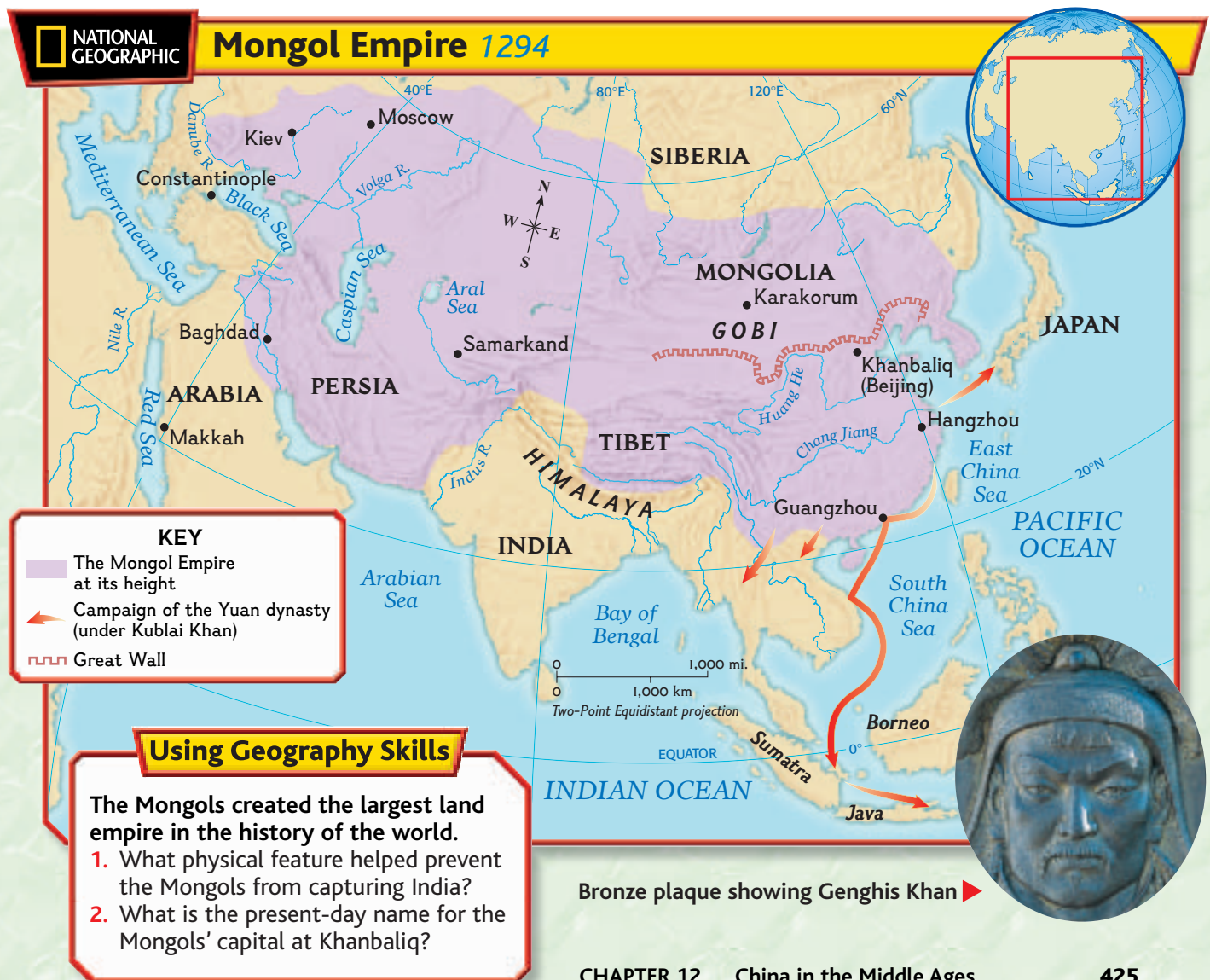
Who Was Genghis Khan? The man who would unite the Mongols was born in the 1160s. He was named Temujin (teh•MOO•juhn), which means “blacksmith.” Temujin showed his leadership skills early. He was still a young man when he began to unite the Mongol tribes.

In 1206 a meeting of Mongol leaders took place somewhere in the **Gobi** (GOH•bee), a vast desert that covers parts of Mongolia and China. At that meeting, Temujin was elected **Genghis Khan** (GEHG•guhs KAHN), which means “strong ruler.” Genghis Khan brought together Mongol laws in a new code. He also created a group

of tribal chiefs to help him plan military campaigns. From the time of his election until the end of his life, Genghis Khan fought to conquer the lands beyond Mongolia.

Genghis Khan gathered an army of more than 100,000 warriors. He placed his soldiers into well-trained groups. Commanding them were officers chosen for their abilities, not for their family ties. These changes made the Mongols the most skilled fighting force in the world at that time.

Genghis Khan began building his empire by conquering other people on the steppes. These victories brought him wealth and new soldiers to fill the army.





▲ In the battle scene shown here, Mongol troops storm across the Chang Jiang on a bridge made of boats. **After conquering northern China, what areas did the Mongols attack?**

Soon the Mongols were strong enough to attack major civilizations. In 1211 Mongol forces turned east and invaded China. Within three years, they had taken all of northern China. They then moved west and struck at the cities and kingdoms that controlled parts of the Silk Road.

Genghis Khan and his Mongol warriors became known for their cruelty and use of **terror** (TEHR•uhr). Terror refers to violent actions that are meant to scare people into surrendering, or giving up. Mongol warriors attacked, robbed, and burned cities. Within a short time, the Mongols became known for their fierce ways, and many people surrendered to them without fighting.

The Mongol Empire Genghis Khan died in 1227. His large empire was divided among his four sons. Under their leadership, the


empire continued to expand. The Mongols swept into parts of eastern and central Europe. They also conquered much of southwest Asia. In 1258 the famous Muslim city of Baghdad fell to the Mongols. Mongol armies then pushed through Syria and Palestine to Egypt. They were finally stopped by the Muslim rulers of Egypt in 1260.

The Mongols united all of these different territories under their rule. Their empire reached from the Pacific Ocean in the east to Eastern Europe in the west and from Siberia in the north to the Himalaya in the south. It was the largest land empire the world had ever known.

Despite widespread destruction, the Mongols eventually brought peace to the lands they ruled. Peace encouraged trade, which helped the Mongols. Many of Asia's trade routes now lay in Mongol hands. The Mongols taxed the products traded over these roads and, as a result, grew wealthy.

The Mongols felt great respect for the advanced cultures they conquered. Sometimes they even adopted some of the beliefs and customs they encountered. For example, the Mongols in southwest Asia accepted Islam and adopted Arab, Persian, and Turkish ways.

The Mongols also learned many things from the Chinese. As they battled Chinese troops, they learned about gunpowder and its use as an explosive. They also saw the Chinese use the fire lance, a weapon that used gunpowder. Quickly, the Mongols adopted both gunpowder and the fire lance for use in battle. These new weapons made Mongol armies even more frightening to their enemies.

 **Reading Check Analyze** What military and economic reasons explain why the Mongols were able to build an empire so quickly?

GENGHIS KHAN

c. A.D. 1167–1227

Mongol Leader

Was Genghis Khan a ruthless warrior who enjoyed causing death and destruction, or was he a skilled leader who improved the lives of those in his empire, or both? Genghis Khan built a huge empire across Asia using loyal, strong, and well-trained warriors. His men killed hundreds of thousands on the quest. Although the wars he and his sons fought were brutal and bloody, they eventually brought peace and prosperity to most of Asia.

Genghis Khan was named Temujin by his father, the Mongol chief Yisugei. Folklore says Temujin had a large blood clot in his right hand, which meant he was destined to become a great warrior. Temujin grew up in his father's camp along the Onon River in Mongolia.

Temujin's father arranged a marriage for his nine-year-old son. His wife came from another tribe, and the marriage helped bring wealth to his family. Borte, his wife at age ten, was beautiful. Temujin and Borte, had four sons when they both became older.

Years later, when his father was killed by the Tartars and his loyal warriors left the tribe, Temujin lost his wealth. His poverty and the disloyalty of his father's soldiers angered him so much

that he decided to become a great warrior. Over time, Temujin became Ghengis Khan. When he died after falling from a horse, his son Ogodei was picked to succeed him.



▲ Genghis Khan

"Life is short, I could not conquer the world."

—attributed to Genghis Khan



▲ Genghis Khan's camp

Then and Now

In Mongolia today, Genghis Khan is considered a national hero. What do you think? Was Genghis Khan a villain or a hero?

Mongol Rule in China

Main Idea The Mongols conquered China and created a new dynasty that tried to conquer Japan and began trading with the rest of Asia.

Reading Focus What does it mean to be tolerant? Read to find out how the Mongols used tolerance to rule the Chinese.

In 1260 the Mongols named Genghis Khan's grandson, Kublai, to be the new khan, or ruler. **Kublai Khan** (KOO • BLUH KAHN) continued the Mongol conquest of China that his father had begun. In 1264 Kublai moved his capital from **Karakorum**

in Mongolia to **Khanbaliq** in northern China. Today the modern city of **Beijing** (BAY • JIHNG) stands on the site of the Mongols' Chinese capital.

What Did the Mongols Do in China? In 1271 Kublai Khan decided to become China's next emperor. Within 10 years, the Mongols had conquered southern China and put an end to the Song dynasty. Kublai Khan started the Yuan (YOO • AHN) dynasty. *Yuan* means "beginning," and its name showed that the Mongols wanted to rule China for a long time. But the Yuan dynasty would last only about 100 years. Kublai would rule for 30 of those years.

Kublai Khan gave Mongol leaders the top jobs in China's government, but he knew he needed Chinese scholar-officials to run the government. So he let many of the Chinese keep their government jobs.

The Mongols were different from the Chinese in many ways. They had their own language, laws, and customs. This kept them separate from Chinese society. The Mongols were rulers at the top of Chinese society, but they did not mix with the Chinese people.

Like many Chinese, the Mongols were Buddhists. They were tolerant, however, of other religions. For example, Kublai Khan invited Christians, Muslims, and Hindus from outside China to practice their faiths and to win converts.

Under Mongol rule, China reached the height of its wealth and power. Its splendor drew foreigners who came to China over the Silk Road. Khanbaliq, the capital, became known for its wide streets, beautiful palaces, and fine homes.

One of the most famous European travelers to reach China was **Marco Polo** (MAHR • koh POH • loh). He came from the city of Venice in Italy. Kublai Khan was

Primary Source

Kublai Khan's Park

Marco Polo recorded a description of the luxury in which Kublai Khan lived.

"[The palace wall] encloses and encircles fully sixteen miles of parkland well watered with springs and

streams . . . Into this park there is no entry except by way of the palace. Here the Great Khan keeps game animals of all sorts . . . to provide food for the gerfalcons [large, arctic falcons] and other falcons which he has in here in mew [an enclosure]."

—Marco Polo, "Kublai Khan's Park, c. 1275"



▲ Kublai Khan presents golden tablets to Marco Polo



Document-Based Question

Why did Kublai Khan keep game animals—ones hunted for sport or food—in his park?

fascinated by Marco Polo's stories about his travels. For about 16 years, Kublai sent Polo on many fact-finding trips. When Polo finally returned to Europe, he wrote a book about his adventures. His accounts of the wonders of China amazed Europeans.

Trade and Conquest The Mongols ruled a large empire that stretched from China to eastern Europe. As a result, China prospered from increased trade with other areas. Goods such as silver, spices, carpets, and cotton flowed in from Europe and other parts of Asia. In return, China shipped out tea, silk, and porcelain. Europeans and Muslims also brought Chinese discoveries, such as steel, gunpowder, and the compass, back to their homelands.

The Mongols enlarged China's empire and conquered Vietnam and northern Korea. The rulers of Korea, called the Koryo, remained in power because they accepted



▲ This drawing from a historic map shows Marco Polo's journey along the Silk Road. **From what European city did Marco Polo travel?**

Mongol control. The Mongols forced thousands of Koreans to build warships. These ships were used by the Mongols to invade Japan. You will read about the Mongol invasions of Japan in a later chapter.

Reading Check Identify Who founded the Yuan dynasty?

Section 3 Review

HistoryOnline

Homework Helper Need help with the material in this section? Visit jag.glencoe.com

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- Under leaders such as Genghis Khan and his sons, the Mongol Empire expanded until it stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe, and from Siberia south to the Himalaya.
- Kublai Khan conquered China, which led to increased trade between China and other parts of the world.

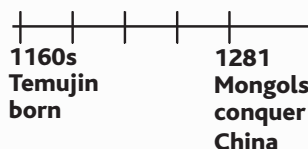
What Did You Learn?

1. Who was Marco Polo?
2. What areas did the Mongols conquer?

Critical Thinking

3. Sequencing Information

Draw a time line like the one below. Fill in details to show the Mongols' rise to power in China.



4. **Analyze** How did the Mongols use terror in their conquests?
5. **Summarize** How did the Mongols benefit from their contact with the Chinese?
6. **Descriptive Writing** Imagine you are Marco Polo visiting Kublai Khan in Khanbaliq. Write a journal entry describing some of the things you are learning about the Mongol Empire under Kublai Khan.